शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री राम जेठमलानी): (क) जी, हां। लक्ष्मीबाई नगर में सीमेंट कन्क्रीट टैंक बहुत पुराने हैं। इनमें से कुछ टैंकों से पानी रिसने लगा है और उन्हें बदलने की आवश्यकता है।

(ख) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान धन उपलब्ध होने पर पानी रिसने वाले क्षतिग्रस्त टैंकों को बदल दिया जाएगा।

Export of Agricultural Products

*116 SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural products constitute 15-18 per cent of the country's total exports yet India's share of the world trade in agriculture is only one per cent; and

(b) if so, what Government are proposing to do to increase the share of agricultural products in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. India's share of the World trade in agriculture is only 1%. India's share in the world trade of agricultural products, except for the traditional items exported, has been low due to lack of export orientation in domestic production. Further, as a policy exports of Items of mass consumption are only permitted in a manner which does not compromise the food security of the country. The agricultural products exported from India include tea, coffee, raw cotton, rice, wheat, coarse grains, tobacco, fruit juices, cashew, sesame, niger seed, oil meal extractions, sugar, flowers and horticulture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices, meat and meat preperations.

(b) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance exports of these products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
3. Providing financial assistance to exporters / growers / cooperative societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/ cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).
4. Grant of financial assistance for Improved packaging and strengthening of quality control.
5. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially the mangoes in overseas markets.
6. Grant of Air-Freight Subsidy for exports of selected fresh vegetables and fruits.
7. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
8. Setting up of intergrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.
9. Setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.